

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 3
Broadwater LNG Project
Docket No. CP06-54 and
CP06-55

March 21, 2006

Ms. Kristen Koyama, Ship Strike Coordinator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office
Protected Resources Division
1 Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

RE: Request for Informal Consultation on the Broadwater LNG Project

Dear Ms. Koyama:

In accordance with its responsibilities under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requests initiation of informal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service- Protected Resources Division (NMFS-PRD) for the proposed Broadwater LNG Project.

As proposed by Broadwater, the Broadwater LNG Project would primarily consist of the installation, operation, and maintenance of a floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU), a yoke mooring system (YMS), and a natural gas pipeline in the New York waters of Long Island Sound. In addition, the proposed project would require temporary and permanent onshore facilities. To the extent practical, Broadwater proposes to use an existing onshore dock, warehouse, and office space to avoid or minimize environmental impacts associated with the potential construction and operation of onshore facilities.

The proposed FSRU and YMS would be located in the middle of Long Island Sound approximately 9 miles from Riverhead, New York and approximately 11 miles from the Connecticut shoreline. The proposed natural gas pipeline would extend 21.7 miles from the proposed YMS to an interconnect with the existing Iroquois Gas Transmission System pipeline in the middle of Long Island Sound.

The proposed onshore facilities would be located in one of two existing industrial parks in the southern portion of Port Jefferson Harbor, Port Jefferson, New York or in Greenport Harbor, Greenport, New York.

Once operational, liquefied natural gas (LNG) would be delivered to the FSRU from foreign sources via LNG carriers. It is expected the LNG carrier routes in U.S. jurisdictional waters would extend from the boundary of the Economic Exclusion Zone (EEZ) through Rhode Island Sound and Block Island Sound and Montauk Channel to the FSRU in Long Island Sound. It is anticipated that the offshore portion of these transit routes would extend east to southeast from the eastern entrance to Block Island Sound/Long Island Sound to the EEZ.

Based on previous correspondence from NMFS-PRD, we understand that there are four sea turtle species and three whale species that should be considered in our evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed Broadwater LNG Project to federally listed species under the purview of NMFS-PRD. In order to evaluate any potential impacts to protected species from the proposed Broadwater LNG Project, FERC is requesting information from NMFS-PRD regarding the potential occurrence in the general Project area, of any:

- Federally designated marine sanctuaries;
- Federally designated critical habitat for federally listed species;
- Defined seasonal aggregation areas of federally listed species; and
- Any other areas of elevated concern to NMFS-PRD within the general Project area.

In addition, we are requesting a list of potential mitigation measures that NMFS-PRD typically requires to avoid or minimize impacts to protected species associated with these types of activities in the general Project area.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or require additional information, please call me at 202-502-8045.

Sincerely,

Jim Martin
Environmental Project Manager
Office of Energy Projects

cc: Public File, Docket No. CP06-54-000 and CP06-55-000

Mr. Brian D. O'Neil, Attorney for Broadwater Energy
Leboeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae L.L.P.
1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20009-5728

Ms. Diane Rusanowsky
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
212 Rogers Avenue
Milford, CT 06460

Mr. Michael Vissichelli
Operations Division, Eastern Permits
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278-0090

Ms. Lingard Knutson
Environmental Review Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, New York 10007-1866

Mr. Steven C. Resler
Resources Management Bureau
Division of Coastal resources
New York State Department of State
41 State Street
Albany, NY 12231-0001